



The Portage Presbyterian Church

April, 2025

"The Church is a people - and we are the Church!"



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and peace!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING —
SHARING LOVE HELPS REPAIR THE BREACH

How do we show love?

Jesus calls us to love one another — with the kind of love that is shared freely with all people. This is our calling as Christ's Church: to love others as Jesus loved us. To love every person we encounter despite the many walls that separate us. In Isaiah 58, the Scripture that best helps us to understand the ministries supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, we are called to be repairers of the breach. The prophet implores us to see those on the margins, the hungry and afflicted, as those for whom God holds great care. Showing our love, sharing our love, is how we repair the breach in so many of our interactions in this world. In this country and around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing has been a catalyst for love for over 75 years. Your gifts bring a beacon of love and hope in our world and put the power of healing into the hands of those who need it most.

As we prepare our hearts today to support One Great Hour of Sharing, we are making the choice to implement love and justice, for they are the only currencies in God's economy.

Always remember, we are called to repair the breach.

We are the Church ... together, and when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Donations for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering can be made with the OGHS envelopes in Parry Hall - or using our "regular" offering envelopes

"Confirmation For All" Experience Continues Thru April

During the Season of Lent, we have been offering a unique learning experience for anyone "Middle School age" and "older!"

This "Confirmation For All" has been an opportunity to study the "basics of the Christian faith!"

Our "Confirmation For All" will be meeting on Tuesdays in April - @ 6:00 p.m. - with the last meeting day being April 29 - we are presently meeting in Westminster Center.

"All" are welcome!

Looking For "Ministry Participants"

We are seeking "participants" who would like to participate in important ministry opportunities as we move into the new year.

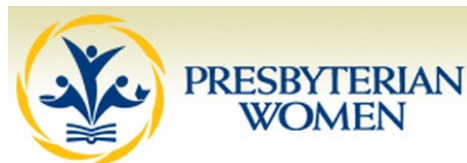
Some of the opportunities include:

- ✓ Updating the Church Sign
- ✓ Operating the "Screens" for worship
- ✓ Operating the "livestream" video for worship

While these may sound a bit "intimidating" - those who volunteer will be provided a "training time" in preparation.

We are hoping to have enough people that we can "set up a rotation" of folks!

If you have questions - or are interested - please contact Pastor Dave soon!



Thanks to all who supported *the Lenten Luncheon* on March 2nd. Because of you *we made \$197.*

Our next project is hosting the John Knox Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering on Saturday, May 3rd. We will be hosting the John Knox Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering. Our speaker will be *Sara Shaver* from *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* which is a non-profit organization that builds beds for children in need. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. A luncheon will be served for \$8. After lunch there will be a service where communion will be served. Special music will be provided by our own Fred and Judy Taylor.

We will be collecting new twin size bedding to help with this project. A tub is provided for donations in Parry Hall. If you plan on attending, there is a sign up sheet on the kiosk in Parry Hall. Please sign up by April 23rd. Anyone can attend. If you have any questions, please let Donna know.

We are also looking for donations of travel size shampoo and regular size deodorant for our hygiene bags we distribute in the community. There is a basket on the table in Parry Hall for your donations.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 5 at Dino's Restaurant @ 9:00 a.m. Come and join us!

WOW! Helping To Make A Difference - With Cereal!



Dear Portage Presbyterian Church

This year I set my goal to collect 300 boxes of cereal.

With your kind heart and help I was able to collect a total of 405 boxes of cereal!

Thank you so much!

*With Love,
Harlan*

P.s. - Harlan's School Collected a total of 815 boxes -
of which Harlan collected 405 Boxes!

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, April 6 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent - Celebration of the Lord's Supper

John 12:1-8

Sunday, April 13 - "Traditional" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.

Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40

Thursday, April 17 - "Maundy Thursday" Worship Service - 6:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary - Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 18 - "Good Friday" Tenebrae Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 20 - "SonRise" Easter Early Morning Worship Service - 7:00 a.m.
On the Wisconsin River Levee - Riverside Park (near the Tamarack)

Sunday, April 20 - "Easter Morning Celebration" Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.
in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 27 - Traditional Worship Service - 10:05 a.m.
The Second Sunday of Eastertide
John 20:19-31

PPC's Sunday Worship - also on "YouTube"

Here's "another option" for "online" worship experiences!
You can go to the PPC "YouTube" Channel!

Here's the "web" information -
<https://www.youtube.com/@portagepresbyterianchurch2652>

The videos on "YouTube" are *not live streamed* -
they are added to the PPC YouTube Channel during the following week.

IF you would like to receive the "weekly worship materials" -
the Sunday Worship Bulletin & Children's Bulletin -
by email- please contact Pastor Dave.

"Readers" for Holy Week

If you are interested in serving as a "Reader" during Holy Week (*Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Early Easter or Late Easter services*), please contact Pastor Dave (or indicate on the "sign up sheet) - by Wednesday, April 2. Thank you!

Looking Ahead - "Worship Services" During Holy Week



Palm Sunday - April 13

Worship @ 10:05 a.m.

There will be a "Palm Sunday Processional"
as a part of the Palm Sunday experience

Maundy Thursday - april 17

Worship Service @ 6:00 p.m.

The Lord's Supper will be served.



Good



Friday - April 18

Tenebrae ("Service of Shadows") - 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday (Early) - April 20

On the Wisconsin River Levee (near the Tamarack) - 7:00 a.m.



Easter Sunday (Later) - April 20

Easter Morning Celebration - 10:05 a.m.

"Decorating the Sanctuary" with Flowers for Easter

We are inviting everyone to "help decorate" the Sanctuary with "flowers" for Easter Sunday.

You can "choose" the kind of flowers you would like to bring (*Easter Lilly, Spring flowers, etc*) - to note if you want the flowers to be given "in memory of ..." or "in honor of ..." - and bring them to be displayed on Easter Sunday.

You can then take the flowers with you any time after Easter - or you can choose to have the Deacons deliver them to some of the folks who have difficulties getting out.

A busy Spring is in the making for the Deacons!

- ✓ Spring Easter cards are being mailed to our homebound church folks.
- ✓ On Sunday, April 27 the Deacons will be hosting a "fellowship hour" after worship.
- ✓ The Deacons will be contributing flowers for the Easter altar.
- ✓ Last, but not least - the Deacons will be visiting our homebound folks on May 10, bringing May baskets to hang on door knobs.

The Deacons are looking to raise funds for an AED purchase. Any contribution would be appreciated. Please be sure to note that the donation is specifically for the AED.

As always - all "**loose offerings**" (*coins and cash*) - on "Communion Sundays" - will be given to the Deacons to help purchase communion supplies and the Upper Room devotionals. Again, that "loose change" is always welcome! Thank you for your generosity.



Upcoming dates for "Stocking Shelves @ the Food Pantry" will be **Wednesday, April 16** and by the Bellmore Family on **Wednesday, April 23**.

We usually begin @ 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome to come and help this community resource provide a necessary program for those in need in our community. Please contact Pastor Dave if you are planning to come and help, in case there is a change in the schedule. *Come and help make a difference in the community!*

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Just a reminder - there is a "Little Food Pantry" in front of Westminster Center. Anyone can place items in this box - and we receive donations from PPC folks as well as those from the community..Please feel free to provide dry goods and non perishables not affected by the temperature.

### "Summer Lunch for Kids" - Planning Group

This summer the "Portage Summer Lunch Program for Kids" program will be going into its 12th year. And we are looking for "volunteers" to be a part of the "Planning Group."

This Planning Group will be reviewing the past year's program as well as making plans for the summer of 2025.

We would love to have you be a part of this important effort here in Portage.

Our "first meeting" for 2025 will be on Wednesday, April 2 @ 1:00 p.m. at the Portage Library.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Dave.



New Directions 4-H club is a very active group of young people from the area that meet together to share ideas, work on projects and learn great leadership skills.

The New Directions 4-H club meets @ PPC on the 3rd Sunday of each month, beginning @ 4:00 p.m.

PPC is pleased to be able to support the efforts of 4-H and the New Directions Club by offering a meeting space and support for their good work.

**Jen Martens** serves as the advisor for the New Directions Club.



### Scout Activities / Events



Blue and Gold Banquet

### "Scouting For Food"

a total of **1579** "food items" collected - WOW!



Winter Camping

### Visiting the Fire Station



We celebrate the Scouts, Leaders  
and the Scout Program here @ PPC!



"Kwik Trip" Car Wash Cards are still available!  
For \$36.00 / card, you will receive 5 "Ultimate" car washes  
(normally a cost of \$50.00)  
If you would like to purchase a "Kwik Trip Car Wash Card" -  
contact Pastor Dave.



[To Contact The Portage Presbyterian Church](#)

Phone: 608-742-6006

Church Office email: office@portagepresbyterian.com

Pastor Dave email: pastordave@portagepresbyterian.com

Website: www.portagepresbyterian.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Portage-Presbyterian-Church-155581354519952

YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@portagepresbyterianchurch2652



It is "easy" **to make a "financial" offering**  
for the work and ministry here @ Portage Presbyterian Church

You may choose to ....



Mail it to the Church Office

or

Drop it in the "mail slot"



or

Use the "online giving" option on "PPC's Website"



or

scan the "QR Code" which will take you to the "Online Giving" Portal



*Your financial support for the work and ministry of God in and through the  
Portage Presbyterian Church is greatly appreciated!*



Serving God and God's People  
With "Energy, Intelligence, Imagination and Love"

Ruling Elders / Session

Moderator - Pastor Dave Hankins

Clerk of Session - Alex Harvey

Jarrett Foster (2025)

Tara Bandekow (2026)

John Crammond (2027)

Nancy Schaper (2025)

Nancy Beasley (2026)

Jean Oren (2027)

Kathy Raimer (2026)

Deacons

Moderator of Deacons - Peggy Alf-Sechtig

Secretary - Liz Bellmore

Treasurer - Vickie Kastner

Peggy Alf (2025)

Vickie Kastner (2026)

Alex Harvey (2027)

Joyce Meredith (2025)

Joyce Oehlhof (2026)

Debby Capener (2027)

Liz Bellmore (2025)

Community Vacation Bible School -2025

Once again, Portage Presbyterian Church is one of the sponsors for the "Community Vacation Bible School" here in Portage.

The Community VBS will be held the week of July 28-August 1 - 8:30-Noon.

This year, however, the VBS will be held at St. Mary's School.

There are some exciting things being planned - and we hope that many young people will be a part of this experience.

The cost for the VBS will be only \$5.00 / child (*with a \$10.00 / family total*).

"Older youth" and Adult volunteers are also welcome to take part!

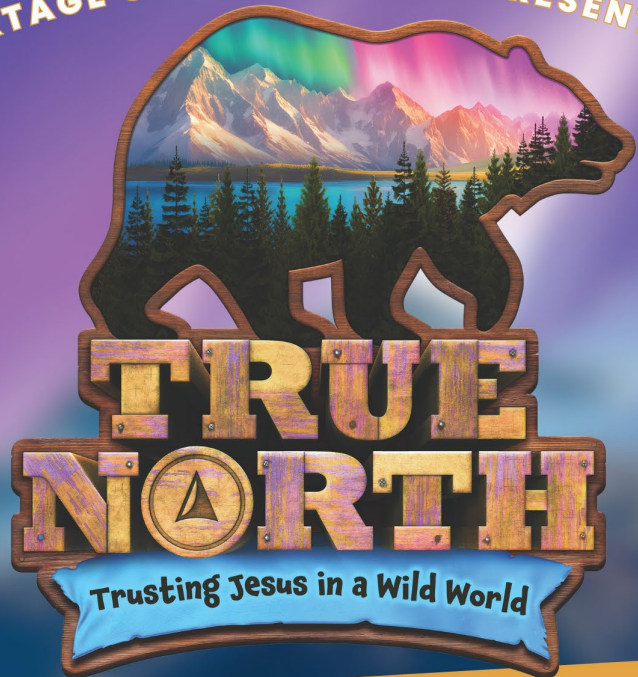
Registration for the VBS will be "online" this year.

For more information, please see the "flyer" included with the newsletter.

*If you have questions, please get in touch with Pastor Dave.*

## PW Women's Gathering Info

**EXPLORE MOUNTAINS OF FUN!**  
PORTAGE COMMUNITY VBS PRESENTS...



New Location: St. Mary School  
Dates: July 28-August 1  
Time: 8.30am-12 Noon  
Cost: \$5/child or \$10/family

Ages 4-entering 6th grade are welcome.  
Volunteers needed! Seeking 7th-12 grade & adults.  
Use qr code to Register or sign-up to Volunteer.

*Register  
Now*



WEBSITE: [VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/784A02](https://vbspro.events/p/784A02)

**[portage.wi.communityvbs@gmail.com](mailto:portage.wi.communityvbs@gmail.com) | 608.566.7021**

Sponsored by: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. John Henry Newman Pastorate,  
Briggsville-Moundville UMC, Portage UMC, & Portage Presbyterian Church